

WASHINGTON STATE VACCINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PNEUMOCOCCAL CONJUGATE VACCINE 7-VALENT RECOMMENDATION STATEMENT

Final (Approved 1/11/01)

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Vaccine Advisory Committee (VAC) has reviewed the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine 7 valent (PCV7) recommendations of the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Based on available clinical studies, the VAC concludes that this is a safe and effective vaccine that may prevent a substantial proportion of invasive Pneumococcal disease in children less than five years of age in the U.S.

The VAC recommends routine vaccination for children 2 through 23 months of age and for children 24 through 59 months of age who are at high risk for pneumococcal disease and its complications. The highest risk children include children with sickle cell disease, asplenia or splenic dysfunction, HIV, those who are immunocompromised, and those with certain chronic diseases including cardiac disease, pulmonary disease (excluding asthma), diabetes mellitus, and cerebrospinal fluid leaks. Other groups at increased risk include African Americans, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, and children in out-of-home group child care. Vaccine should also be available for children 24 through 59 months of age upon request of parents after consultation with their health care provider.

The VAC recommends the DOH Immunization Program work with key constituents to assure prompt immunization of children under age 2 years and those at highest risk for invasive pneumococcal disease, and to increase public and provider education and awareness about pneumococcal disease and its prevention.